

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Freedom Riders in the grassroots Decarcerate Louisiana Movement host press conference and rally to demand Community Reinvestment and Abolition of the new system of slavery and Jim Crow in Louisiana.

Baton Rouge, LA: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 – 11:00 a.m. at the Old Capitol. Let us protest against the surveillance, police, jail and prison enterprise system and the systematic defunding of our communities by wearing **orange jumpsuits**, converging at city hall, criminal district courts, police and sheriff's departments and other public places to call attention to our demands for redirecting tax payer dollars from the carceral state to the development and improvement of our communities; ending slavery in the prison system, abolishing life without parole and all sentences that deny re-entry into society.

Speakers:

Angelle Bradford
Moms Demand Action

Reverend Ray Brown
National Action Now

Andrea Nasca, Decarcerate Louisiana, SURJ volunteer, abolition presenter

Madalyn K. Wasilczuk
Juvenile Defense Clinic, Director

Tasha Williams
Step Up Louisiana

Curtis Davis
Re-entry Mediation Institute of Louisiana, Director

Will Snowden, Vera Institute of Justice, Director of New Orleans office

Maria Harmon
Step Up Louisiana, Co-Founder/Co-Director; Decarcerate Louisiana

Ronald Reynolds
Decarcerate Louisiana

Martha Alguera
Voces Unidas

Reverend Manning
Justice & Beyond
Greater New Orleans Interfaith Climate Coalition
Broadmoor Community Church

BACKGROUND

In 1861, the Union and Confederacy engaged in a civil war over whether slavery should expand to all 50 states. And, in 1863, the Union triumphed over the Confederacy. However, on April 14, 1865, Union President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by actor John Wilkes Booth. Emboldened by this act, Southern enslavers hurried to Congress to bargain with Union politicians for a compromise that would extend slavery as punishment for crime. In December 1865, a morally wounded federal government enacted the 13th amendment allowing slavery as punishment for crime. Subsequently, all the 50 states enacted identical constitutional provisions using the same language found in the 13th amendment. "White men alone must manage the South," the new President Andrew Johnson remarked to California Senator John Conness in 1865. [Eric Foner, (1988) (2014)]

Thus, in the words of Robert Perkinson, author of *Texas Tough: The Rise of The American Prison Empire*: "Just as slavery once stood as a glaring exception to the American promise, so does imprisonment more than two centuries after the birth of the republic."

[24 points to abolish the new system of slavery in Louisiana](#)

#freemypeople #letmypeoplego #blacklivesmatter #decarceratelouisiana

About Decarcerate Louisiana: Decarcerate Louisiana is a grassroots movement of freedom riders demanding abolition of the new system of slavery and Jim Crow and restoration of Community Development funds to empower people en masse to liberate themselves from systemic oppression in the institutions of our society.